[Mr. M. K. Mohamed.]

(*c*) whether any representations have been received from the public of Alwaye regarding this matter; and

(*d*) if so, what action has been taken by the Government regarding it?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) There is a proposal in the report of the Committee appointed to consider the improvements to the town.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under enquiry.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know from the honourable member whether the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the improvement of the town is accepted by Government?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Not yet sir. It is awaiting my inspection.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know the personnel of the committee?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I do not know that. I will look into it when I go there.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know what the representation is?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: I have not read it. There is no point in reading it now. I will read it when I go there.

Child Marriage Restraint Act.

476 ***MR. D. THOMAS** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavancode*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of applications received in 1120 asking for exemption from the operation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act;

(*b*) the number of instances where exemption was granted; and

(*c*) the reasons for granting such exemptions?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 33.

(*b*) 11.

(*c*) Owing to the special circumstances of each case.

MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): With regard to part (*c*) may I know the special circumstances that necessitated the exemptions?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: In certain cases the bride will be almost 14 years, and then it will be only.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I will give you instances of cases where exemptions have been granted. Most of these are from Catholics. One was a case where the girl was 13 years and 10 months, and although he was a Christian gentleman, he said that a proper muhurtam could not be fixed at a later date that year, and so wanted exemption. Another gentleman called—No, I will not mention the name—also a Catholic wanted to marry his younger brother 16 years of age

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because the old father threatened to disinherit the boy unless he got married soon. Local persons entered into the matter and found that the boy would be disinherited. As there was a chance of the will being executed immediately—arrangements having been made for writing it—exemption was granted. In another case, girl was 12 years old, the bridegroom had married the girl's elder sister who died leaving an only child of tender years. The girl was reported to be of very good health. (*Laughter*). Another was the case of a girl 11 days short of 14 years, another 6 days short of 14. Again the stars intervened and we had make room for the planetary positions. Another case, 13 years—(father 65 years reported to be seriously ill, having no chance of complete recovery). Again in another case, the girl was 12 years old, the father reported to be seriously ill—medical certificate was produced—and the girl having no other relative to conduct the marriage if not performed during the life time of the father. Another case was of a fatherless girl—grandfather aged 62.—Nobody to conduct a wedding after the death of the grand father—the girl had a very good match. (*Laughter.*) So exemption was granted. Then another case—daughter Lekshmi—13 years—father died suddenly while in service as Sub-Registrar leaving a widow and six children—girl grown up and the widow was in delicate health—a good match was available. Another a motherless girl—2 days short of 14 years. These are the kind of exemptions. In the majority of cases planetary positions intervened.

Temporary Ayurveda Vaidyasala during Makaravilakku.

477 *MR. G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many temporary Ayurveda Vaidyasalas were opened during Makaravilakku in 1120 and the places at which they were opened;

(*b*) the number of pilgrims treated in those Vaidyasalas during 1119 and 1120;

(*c*) the amount sanctioned for the preparation of medicines during 1119 and 1120; and

(*d*) whether they are aware that the present supply of Ayurvedic medicines are too inadequate to meet the increasing demand?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: (*a*) Vaidyasalas were opened at Erumeli, Pampa and Sabarimala;

(*b*) The number of pilgrims treated is given below:—

Year.	*Erumeli.*	*Pampa.*	*Sabarimala.*
1119	5315	5794	4795
1120	6228	6494	6001

(*c*) Rs. 75 for each of the Vaidyasalas at Pampa and Sabarimala in both the years, besides a lump sum of Rs. 60 in 1119 and Rs. 50 in 1120, by way of special grant-in-aid to a vaidyan, including cost of medicines, for conducting the temporary dispensary at Erumeli;

(*d*) There were reports that the supply of medicines was not sufficient to meet the increasing demand.

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